

## UN-WOMEN EXECUTIVE BOARD

### UN-Women and the Permanent Mission of Finland publication launch event: Shaping the International Agenda II: Raising Women's Voices in Intergovernmental Forums

*13 January 2021, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m*

*Organizer: UN-Women*

The event marks the launch of the sequel publication to the “Shaping the International Agenda: Raising Women’s Voices in Intergovernmental Forums” produced by UN-Women, the United Nations Office at Geneva and the International Gender Champions in 2017, with the support of ITU.

A knowledge product and an advocacy tool, this [report](#) is intended to **raise awareness, share lessons and inspire others to commit to action that improves and strengthens women’s participation, which is critical to shaping an inclusive international agenda.**

The event will present the publication’s key findings and recommendations, and include a panel gathering representatives from the intergovernmental arena to discuss the importance of the continued need to promote women’s participation and leadership and achieving gender parity in intergovernmental decision-making forums and processes.

The publication **updates the 2017 findings and recommendations based on survey responses received from members of the United Nations Governing Bodies Secretariat (UNGBS<sup>1</sup>) in 2020.** The survey results demonstrate progress made by the secretariats of the United Nations governing bodies on implementing actions under seven categories of recommendations: **(i) explicit policies and mandated targets; (ii) tracking and reporting; (iii) training and capacity-building; (iv) financial support; (v) advocacy and networking; (vi) communications strategies; and, a new area of focus since the previous report (vii) initiatives addressing sexual misconduct.**

As in the previous report, this publication concludes with **recommendations** to further enhance gender parity goals directed at three important groups of actors: the **UNGBS; Member States** of the United Nations; and **ministers, ambassadors, heads of organizations and other senior officials.**

This event will be a fitting beginning of a new year following a year which has marked several notable anniversaries, including the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action which urged governments and stakeholders to “aim at and support gender balance in the composition of delegations to the United Nations and other international forums.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The United Nations Governing Bodies Secretariat Group (UNGBS) is an informal group of over twenty entities from United Nations Departments and Offices, Funds and Programmes, Related Organizations, Research and Training Institutes, Specialized Agencies and Other Entities, with headquarters in Geneva, Nairobi, New York, Paris, Rome, Vienna and Washington, D.C., etc. With continuous expansion of the Group, the mechanism has proved to be effective to establish ties and exchange best practices and lessons learned among the Secretariats.

<sup>2</sup> Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Para. 192 (i).

## Agenda

Item	Speaker(s)
Introduction (5 mins)	H.E. Mr. Jukka Salovaara, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations
Opening Remarks (5 mins)	Anita Bhatia, Deputy Executive Director and Assistant-Secretary-General, UN-Women
Key findings and discussion (35 mins)	<p><i>Facilitator:</i> H.E. Mr. Jukka Salovaara, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations</p> <p>Joint presentation by Katja Pehrman, Senior Advisor and Jean-Luc Bories, Secretary of the Executive Board</p> <p>Lead discussants:</p> <p><i>Member State Representative:</i> Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone, Ambassador Alie Kabba</p> <p>OPEN FORUM</p>
Conclusion and way forward (5 mins)	H.E. Mr. Jukka Salovaara, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations